

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

CLAIM 1. (Amended) A ring for mounting a drive element on a cylindrical shoulder of a housing of a valve using a snap connection, the drive element including a drive element shoulder having at least one outwardly directed projection, the ring comprising:

an inwardly directed collar disposed in abutment on one side thereof to the cylindrical shoulder of the housing and

a plurality of resiliently radially displaceable locking elements extending into the ring; wherein the collar by its other side and the locking elements together form a receptacle for the drive element shoulder for engaging in a snap connection with the at least one projection.

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CLAIM 2. (Original) The ring of claim 1, further comprising:

an inner screw threading complementary to and engageable with an outer screw threading of the valve.

CLAIM 3. (Original) The ring of claim 1, wherein the collar further comprises a plurality of radially directed slots and the locking elements comprise segments of an annulus placed in the slots.

CLAIM 4. (Original) The ring of claim 3, wherein each of the segments comprises at least one nose for restricting inward radial movement of the segment.

CLAIM 5. (Original) The ring of claim 3, wherein each of the locking elements further comprises a flange as a tool gripping position.

CLAIM 6. (Original) The ring of claim 3, wherein each of the annular segments is chamfered on an inner edge facing the drive element.

CLAIM 7. (Original) The ring of claim 1, further comprising a spring element for inwardly radially biasing each of the locking elements.

CLAIM 8. (Original) The ring of claim 1, further comprising a groove disposed circumferentially on the outside of the ring.

CLAIM 9. (Original) The ring of claim 8, further comprising a circumferential spring element located in the groove.

CLAIM 10. (Original) The ring of claim 1, further comprising a gripping surface for facilitating mounting of the ring on the valve.

CLAIM 11. (Original) The ring of claim 1, further comprising a snap connection for engaging with the valve.